

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 JOHANN 00699 101705Z

46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 RSR-01

/076 W

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R 101415Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2811

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJECT: VENDA HOMELAND ELECTION

1. ELECTION FOR FIRST VENDA HOMELAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (VENDA HOMELAND WAS GRANTED TRANSKEI-TYPE SELF-GOVERNMENT IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR) WILL TAKE PLACE AUGUST 15-16. AT STAKE WILL BE 18 ELECTED SEATS IN 60-MEMBER ASSEMBLY. REMAINING 42 MEMBERS WILL BE CHIEFS NOMINATED BY SAG. SOME 200,000 VOTERS EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE; 110,000 IN HOMELAND, 60,000 IN WIT-WATERSRAND AREA, AND 30,000 IN RURAL AREAS OUTSIDE HOMELAND.

2. ELECTION WILL SEE CONTEST BETWEEN INCUMBENT CHIEF EXECUTIVE PATRICK MPHEPHU AND HIS SUPPORTERS AND NEWLY-FORMED OPPOSITION VENDA INDEPENDENCE PARTY (VIP) WHICH IS CONTESTING ALL 18 ELECTED SEATS. VIP IS LED BY JOHANNESBURG ADVERTISING COMPANY AFRICAN ADVISOR BALDWIN MUDAU, WHO WAS VENDALAND URBAN REPRESENTATIVE FOR FOUR YEARS UNTIL HE BROKE WITH MPHEPHU IN 1972. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT FOR VIP AMONG URBAN VENDAS INDICATED BY ATTENDANCE AT RECENT RALLIES IN JOHANNESBURG AND PRETORIA AREAS AND ALSO IN HOMELAND. PARTY'S PLATFORM CALLS FOR COOPERATION WITH OTHER HOMELAND LEADERS ON MAJOR

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PAGE 02 JOHANN 00699 101705Z

ISSUES, FREE COMPULSORY EDUCATION FOR ALL CHILDREN IN VENDA

HOMELAND, ENCOURAGEMENT OF FOREIGN CAPITAL TO DEVELOP HOMELAND, AND FOSTERING EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF ALL VENDA PEOPLE IN GOVERNMENT OF HOMELAND.

3. WHILE MPHEPHU GROUP HAS NOT FORMED A POLITICAL PARTY, IT HAS RECENTLY HELD A NUMBER OF ELECTION RALLIES IN HOMELAND. IN LATE JULY RAND DAILY MAIL REPORTED THAT MPHEPHU STATED IN INTERVIEW HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE VIP BANNED AFTER ELECTIONS ON GROUNDS THAT TWO POLITICAL PARTIES WOULD DIVIDE VENDA PEOPLE, WHO DID NOT YET FULLY UNDERSTAND HOMELAND POLITICAL PROBLEMS. HE STATED HIS INTENTION TO FORM ONE PARTY UNDER THE HOMELAND GOVERNMENT UNLESS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AGREED TO ALLOW EXISTENCE OF AN OPPOSITION PARTY. MPHEPHU, WHO HAD NOT HAD MUCH EDUCATION AND SPEAKS VIRTUALLY NO ENGLISH, IS KNOWN TO BE VERY TRADITIONAL AND CONSERVATIVE IN HIS OUTLOOK AND BEHAVIOR.

4. BOTH GROUPS ARE CLAIMING THEY WILL WIN ELECTION. MPHEPHU DISMISSES VIP AS HAVING SUPPORT ONLY IN URBAN AREAS. MUDAU TOLD CONGEN AUGUST 7 THAT VIP SHOULD WIN 16 OF 18 ELECTED SEATS IF ELECTION CONDUCTED HONESTLY. HE COMMENTED THAT SAG OPENLY SUPPORTING MPHEPHU CANDIDATES. HE ALSO EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE HOPE OF OBTAINING SUFFICIENT SUPPORT FROM NOMINATED CHIEFS, FOLLOWING ELECTION, SPECIFICALLY 34 OF 42, TO ENABLE VIP TO CONTROL ASSEMBLY AND FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT. HE EXPLAINED THAT WHILE CHIEFS ARE IN NO WAY ENLIGHTENED OR PROGRESSIVE, MANY OF THEM ARE DISSATISFIED WITH MPHEPHU BECAUSE HE IS COMPLETELY SUBSERVIENT TO SAG AND ITS LOCAL OFFICIALS.  
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